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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02767 210930Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 EB-08 NSCE-00 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7638

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2767

FOR MOOSE AND HARROP AF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, SU
SUBJECT: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE SUDAN

1. THIS MORNING'S PRESS REPORTS THAT SUDANESE ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY PASSED THE QUOTE AUSTERITY UNQUOTE BUDGET PROPOSED BY FINMIN FOR SUDANESE FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS JULY 1. WE WILL BE REPORTING DETAILS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUDGET AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. WE CAUTION, HOWEVER, THAT THIS KIND OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN QUICKLY IN THE PAST. WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE SOME OF THE SUDANESE STATEMENTS OF INTENTION ON FAITH IN THE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

2. WITH THIS ACTION AND WITH THE DEVALUATION DECISION, IT NOW APPEARS THAT SUDAN HAS COMPLIED WITH THE IMF RECOMMENDATIONS. SINCE WE AS A GOVERNMENT SO STRONGLY URGED SUDAN TO TAKE THESE DIFFICULT AND UNPALATABLE STEPS, I FEEL THAT WHILE WE MAY NOT RPT NOT HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THE SUDAN, WE DO HAVE SOME KIND OF A MORAL OBLIGATION TO GIVE SOME URGENCY TO OUR EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE SOME FURTHER BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02767 210930Z

3. I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, WHEN I SEE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI FOR MY PLANNED TOUR D'HORIZON ON THE EVEN OF THE OAU MEETINGS, IF I COULD EXPRESS TO HIM OUR GRATIFICATION THAT SUDAN HAS TAKEN THESE DIFFICULT STEPS AND ADD THAT THE USG IS CONTINUING ITS EXAMINATION AS TO HOW IT CAN BEST BE HELPFUL TO THE SUDAN AS IT COPES WITH A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM BROUGHT ON BY ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. I FEEL THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY

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TIMELY IN THE LIGHT OF THE SECRETARY'S JUNE 20 SPEECH, IN WHICH SECRETARY SAID THAT USG DID NOT INTEND TO PLAY THE SOVIET/CUBAN GAME IN AFRICA BUT PROPOSED TO EXPAND ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE CONTINENT.

4. I THINK YOUR AUTHORIZING ME TO MAKE THE ABOVE GENERAL STATEMENT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFICS OF CONCRETE MEASURES WE MIGHT BE TAKING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, E.G. A FURTHER PL-480 AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF U.S. FY-78, OR ANY OTHER POSSIBLE MEASURES, THE PRESENTATION WOULD BE EVEN MORE HELPFUL.

5. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE ABOVE.
BERGUS

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20 Mar 2014
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